

November 27, 1950

Professor Tracy M. Sonneborn
Department of Zoology
Indiana University
Bloomington, Indiana

Dear Tracy,

Your very kind letter of November 21 arrived while I was out of town visiting with Pomper at Oak Ridge. I hasten to answer it now.

Your comments have helped me to arrive at a more adequate understanding of certain of your earlier statements. I think, however, it would be best if we deferred our attempts to attain a more complete resolution of any remaining differences until I can pay you a visit. Here I shall consider briefly only those issues upon which you might want my opinion before we can get to see each other. Let me emphasize as strongly as I possibly can that I do not consider that any injustice has been done to me by your article. Please do not feel compelled to do anything to rectify any wrong because none has been done. My depression started four years ago and does not stem from your article so don't hold yourself responsible. After all, Tracy, I enjoyed a manic phase of almost 30 years. It was about time something calmed me down.

With regard to the letter correcting any implications you do not deem proper; in my opinion it is doubtful whether it would do any good and, furthermore, the good that it might possibly do does not to me seem worth the time and effort you would have to expend. I don't think you should entertain writing it unless you feel strongly that the situation is otherwise.

With regard to your paragraph 6, I had meant to write a postscript telling you to ignore certain paragraphs on which we obviously agreed. On rereading the letter before sending it to you it was obvious that I had succumbed to a disease with which all good pedagogs are severely afflicted and which is characterized by the continual effort to raise the obvious to the heights of originality.

I am looking forward with great eagerness to visiting with you as there are certain experimental findings, obtained in the past year, which I am very anxious to talk over with you. I am gradually coming to the conclusion that many of us who have thought much about the gene-enzyme problem have thus far missed a crucial and elusive point. But

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more about this when I see you. I shall try my best to arrange to see you some time on a weekend between the 8th and the Christmas vacation. This may be a little difficult since I am teaching this semester. I will, however, let you know as soon as my arrangements become certain. Let me end by again expressing my profound appreciation for your many kind words.

Sincerely yours,

S. Spiegelman

SS:mb